

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: VISIT BY ASTRONAUT CREW

REF: DOHA 0040-U

1. AGENCY PLANNING SPONSOR TOUR ARABIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES BY ENTIRE U.S. THREE-ASTRONAUT CREW FROM JULY 1975 APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT PLUS TOP SCIENTIST, DR. FAROUK EL-BAX, WHO DIRECTS ANALYSIS EARTH OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING FLIGHT. ALL FOUR PROBABLY ACCOMPANIED BY WIVES.

2. CREW AND EL-BAZ ENVISION VISIT KUWAIT, DOHA, FOLLOWING APPEARANCES ALGIERS FEB 2-3; PARTICIPATION OLYMPICS OPENING, AUSTRIA, FEB 4; CAIRO FEB 6-7; JIDDA FEB 8-9; RIYADH FEB 9-11; -?7 \$#-?8 *3? 12.

3. TENTATIVE ITINERARY: EL-BAZ AND CREW ARRIVING KUWAIT 0945 FEB 13 VIA KUWAIT AIRLINES 261. LEAVING KUWAIT 1830 FEB 14 GULF AIRLINES 228 ARRIVING DOHA 1935; LEAVING DOHA 0945 FEB 17
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GULF AIRLINES 15 FOR LONDON, GIVING KUWAIT PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

FEB 13-14 AND DOHA FEB 15-16.

4. EL-BAZ EGYPT-BORN, SPEAKS ARABIC FLUENTLY, WILL SERVE AS INTERPRETER FOR CREW BESIDES HIS OWN PRESENTATIONS. HE MADE EXCEEDINGLY SUCCESSFUL AGENCY-SPONSORED LECTURE TOUR OF ARAB COUNTRIES 1974

5. EL-BAZ AND CREW SUGGEST PRESS CONFERENCE, LECTURE, RECEPTION AS POST DESIRES. CREW CONSISTS OF THOMAS P. STAFFORD, VANCE D. BRAND, DONALD K. (DEKE) SLAYTON.

6. EL-BAZ AND CREW PREPARED TO EXPLAIN VALUE OF REMOTE SENSING FROM SPACE TO REGION WITH EMPHASIS ON OBSERVATIONS MADE ABOVE KUWAIT-DOHA AND NEIGHBORING AREAS AND ANALYSIS BY EL-BAZ. TEAM WILL SHOW SLIDES (NEED CAROUSEL PROJECTOR), OTHER MATERIALS RE DESERT GROWTH, GEOLOGICAL AND RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS OF AREA EMERGING FROM FLIGHT. TEAM ALSO PREPARED FIELD QUESTIONS SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, UPCOMING SHUTTLE OPERATIONS (SLAYTON HOLDS KEY JOB IN SHUTTLE PROJECT), EXPLORATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM BY U.S. SPACECRAFT, NASA MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES.

7. PARTICIPATING POSTS WILL RECEIVE BIOS, PICTURES, OTHER SUPPORT MATERIALS ASAP. AGENCY PAYS COMPLETE TRAVEL; POSTS PER DIEM ONLY. REPLY PROGRAM OFFICER FROEHLICH ICS/DS. KISSINGER

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